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United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | RO

Reply to: 3400 Date:

Subject: Forest Pest Management Trip Report - March 11-13

To: Deputy Regional Forester, S&PF

My staff and I were invited some time ago to visit a Canadian firm, Phero Tech, Incorporated, that produces behavior-modifying chemicals to manipulate bark and ambrosia beetles. We purchase their formulated products for attracting or repelling such major bark beetle pests as Douglas-fir beetle and mountain pine beetle. We accepted the firm's invitation and joined Dr. Gary Daterman, PNW in the visit. Iral Ragenovich, Dave Bridgwater and I made up the contingent from the Regional Office. We chose to drive to Vancouver, B.C. to allow stops in Olympia, Washington, and Sedro Woolly, Washington, to have discussions with both State and Federal representatives. Highlights of all those discussions are provided below:

Washington Department of Natural Resources - We met with our counterparts in the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to discuss topics of mutual concern. The Forest Health staff at the Washington Department of Natural Resources receives $76,500 annually from the Forest Service to help conduct the State forest health program. WDNR personnel meeting with us included Arden Olsen, Rick Johnsey, Ken Russell, Bob Backman and Jim Arthurs. A copy of the topics discussed is enclosed. Highlights of the discussions included:

- sharing a copy of the draft FPM FY 1991 staff Plan of Work. WDNR will provide comments as appropriate.

- discussing plans for the 1991 aerial sketchmap survey. An aerial survey planning meeting is scheduled for Portland, Oregon, in April, and a northwest aerial survey workshop is planned for late June in Wenatchee, Washington.

- sharing information about upcoming suppression projects. The Forest Service will conduct a Douglas-fir tussock moth suppression project on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest this field season. The WDNR will provide assistance to Boise Cascade Corporation should they chose to treat western spruce budworm on approximately 10,000 acres near Goldendale, Washington. Treatment would be with carbaryl and possibly some use of Bacillus thuringensis, however, there would be no request for Federal cost-sharing.

- identifying opportunities for cooperating in training sessions planned by the Forest Pest Management staff. Don Goheen will need to discuss possible cooperative efforts in this area with Ken Russell. All FPM sessions pertaining to I&D identification and management recommendations, silviculturist recertification, white pine blister rust, and pesticide training were of interest.

- considering the possibility of a review of the WDNR Forest Health program. Tentative planning identified either September or October of this year as a good time. The WDNR suggested we schedule and hold periodic planning meetings as well.

- coverage of forest health monitoring efforts. Currently, forest health monitoring for the State of Washington is not scheduled until FY 1994.

- information on WDNR's preparation of a series of policy statements regarding forest health. These will be shared with the Forest Service when issued.

- updates on the Siberian Log import issue. In addition to Don Goheen and Jerry Beatty as backup, Ken Russell is also participating in team discussions.

Washington Department of Agriculture - Though time was limited, we were able to meet with Eric LaGasa, Washington Department of Agriculture (WDOA) over lunch to discuss FPM/WDOA cooperative efforts. Rick Johnsey, WDNR, joined in on the discussions. It appears that our involvement with the WDOA is working well. We mutually agreed that WDOA would distribute all gypsy moth traps on Federal lands in Washington starting last field season. WDOA also does the same for the State and private lands. This has worked well with one exception. Last year, an Olympic National Park employee challenged the WDOA person placing the traps in the Park. We will be meeting with Regional NPS personnel to discuss the program so that the survey can go on unchallenged during the 1991 field season.

Phero Tech Incorporated - Phero Tech personnel are excellent hosts and appreciated us visiting their facility. Apparently, it was the first time that Gary Daterman stopped by despite numerous invitations. Phero Tech was represented by Pete Putland, CEO, Steve Burke, Sales/Marketing, Jerry Carlson, Technical Services, Shan Krannitz, Pest Management Specialist, and Staffan Lindgren, Research Director. The morning was spent discussing a variety of topics followed by a tour of the facility after lunch. Points of interest included:

- the desire to have EPA lift the 10 acre limit on EUPs to 500 acres as the Forest Service had requested in 1990. Since it requires almost as much data/information to obtain an EUP as it does to register a product, lifting this limit would stimulate additional pheromone testing. A number of other registration-related aspects were discussed including a considerable amount about MCH. Phero Tech expressed an interest in providing services as needed for the DFTM suppression project in eastern Oregon.

- the possibility of Phero Tech formulating DFTM and WSB pheromones and constructing and testing traps baited with their lures. Phero Tech would like to produce and market both the pheromones and traps for DFTM and WSB. Currently, PNW produces the pheromones.

- awareness that Phero Tech would like to do the above for gypsy moth as well and has submitted pheromone to Chuck Schwabe at APHIS.

- awareness that Phero Tech is also interested in providing the pheromone baits for surveying for European pine shoot moth. Presently, PNW builds approximately 2500 baits for European pine shoot moth per year.

- awareness that Phero Tech provides trapping service to industry both in Canada and the USA for monitoring and control of ambrosia beetles around mill yards, and is providing service in a variety of other areas, such as mediation, consulting, management plans, surveys and suppression projects.

British Columbia Forest Service - We were also pleased to be able to meet with representatives of the British Columbia Forest Service Forest Health section, represented by John Muir, Acting Manager of the Protection Branch, and John Henigman, Animal Damage Control specialist. Pete Putland of Phero Tech graciously allowed us to use his office and conference table for the discussions with the B.C. Forest Service personnel. Topics of interest included:

- updates in forest health, new forestry, and T&E. We are experiencing impacts from these programs earlier and more intensely than our canadian counterparts.

- training provided here in the USA. They expressed interest not only in R-6 sessions but in the National Advanced Pesticide Management Training course presented at Marana.

- invitations to the proposed DFTM suppression projects: Wallowa-Whitman NF (166,000 acres) and Frazier River Valley (1,000 acres).

- invitations to the forest health meeting in Grand Forks, B.C., scheduled for 4/30 and 5/1 & 2.

  a reciprocal visit to the USA with FPM/R-6 hosting. Portland was offered as the site with 10/29 & 30 the proposed meeting dates.

Mt. Baker RD, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF - In an earlier visit to the Regional Office, Bruce Mateer, TSO, and Barbara Bussy, Forest Silviculturist, brought to our attention their concern about wind thrown and snow damaged Douglas-fir, silver fir, and hemlock on the Mt. Baker RD. Wednesday, March 13, we were able to meet with District personnel Larry Bates and Kathy Anderson. Larry and Kathy showed us two areas of extensive blowdown containing approximately 2,000,000 board feet adjacent to Baker Lake. Points discussed included:

- concern about the potential for bark beetle buildup in the downed and damaged material.

- coordination of a thorough evaluation after the beetles fly and attack the material.

- concern regarding removal of the downed and damaged trees within northern spotted owl habitat conservation areas.

North Cascades NP - Since the Mt. Baker RD is co-located with the North Cascades NP, we were able to meet with John Jarvis, Resource Branch Chief for the Park, about Forest Pest Management service. Items discussed included:

- distribution and collection of gypsy moth traps by WDOA personnel. Ed Allen is the Park contact for the WDOA. Ed was not available to participate in this meeting.

- attendance of Park personnel in training sessions, such as those provided for hazard tree identification and development of vegetation management plans for developed sites, recognition and rating white pine blister rust and others provided by FPM/R-6.

- establishment of permanent plots to monitor the effects of balsam woolly adelgid.

This trip was particular beneficial to FPM/R6 personnel because the people visited include many of our key cooperators. These meetings were intended to create stronger links with these groups and that was accomplished. Many spin-offs will develop from the visits, such as participation in work planning, training sessions, suppression projects, forest health monitoring, etc.

MAX M. OLLIEU
Director of Forest Pest Management

Enclosure

cc:
FIDR/PNW, G.Daterman
FPM/R6, D.Bridgwater, M.Ollieu, I.Ragenovich
FPM/WO, J.Space
MBS, B.Bussy, B.Mateer

Ron Quilliam was the District TMA and Joe Iozzi was the District Silviculturist.